a detailed time bound step-by-step programme and monitor its implementation. The mandate of the Group would have to include identification of alternative band, assessing and making available requisite funds and assisting users on procedural aspects of quick procurement and installation of new equipment. This activity has to be taken up on war footing to be able to meet the Government objectives of growth in telecom services."

(d) Adequate spectrum to achieve the target of 200 million mobile subscribers by 2007 is sought to be made available including by release of necessary spectrum from existing users through coordination/relocation.

Reduction of pulse rate

2544. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL, Delhi has since reduced telephone pulse rate between Delhi and towns of NCR namely Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon from 3 minutes to 2 minutes, which is against the concept of National Capital Region, which stipulates that the whole region be treated as one city;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct MTNL, Delhi to revert to the earlier arrangement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reduction in pulse rate for calls to these cities from Delhi was necessitated to offset the loss being caused to MTNL in complying with Interconnection Usage Charges regime.

Criteria for nomination of member of TAC

2545. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for nomination of members for TACs of Telecom district;